



Media Advisory

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Southwest Region (Arizona • New Mexico • Oklahoma • Texas)

Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge

<http://southwest.fws.gov>

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FUELS REDUCTION OPERATIONS UNDERWAY AT SEVILLETA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Fire personnel from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Southwest Region are conducting a prescribed burn at the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge today.

The burn will treat approximately 2,500 acres of Chihuahuan grasslands during this routine fuels reduction maintenance operation.

This prescribed burning operation is the first of five units contained in the Dry Lonesome Burn Plan encompassing 25,255 acres slated for treatment on the Refuge. The burn unit locations are in the north/northwest portion of the refuge. The burn area is west of Interstate 25 and north of the Rio Salado.

Assisting in the burn are fire personnel from the Bureau of Land Management's Socorro Field Office and New Mexico State Forestry.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 545 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign and Native American tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies. Visit the Service's website at <http://www.fws.gov>.